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the prefectural city of Yuen-yang, where we anchored for the day, against the south-western suburb. A small stream from the south-west enters there on the right. A hill on the right bank, directly facing the city, is called the *T'ëen-ma-shan*, or "Hill of Pegasus," the tradition concerning which is, that in ancient times, when it split open, the cliff exhibited the three characters

天馬王, *T'ëen-ma-wang*, "The King of the Celestial Horse." Adjoining this, on a smaller hill, is a tall slender pagoda without galleries, named the *Keih-sing-tā*, "Polar-star Pagoda." There is a popular tradition concerning that also, that it was built by a former prefect, who suspected the fidelity of some of his wives, and that when the structure was raised in view of the official residence, such was the effect of the *fung-shwuy* or "geomantic" influence, the grievance ceased. It was built in the year A.D. 1755. Just facing the pagoda, the *Wan-chang-kō*, or Sanctum dedicated to Wan-chang, forms a conspicuous object inside the south-east corner of the city. There is a Keang-se guild in the city, and also a joint guild of the Shan-se and Shen-se traders, called the Shan-shen-meau.

From this point to Hankow, the descent of the river occupied us nine days more, and we arrived in the afternoon of September 4th.

#### 4. *Report on a Journey to the Upper Waters of the Niger from Sierra Leone.* By W. WINWOOD READE, Esq.

(Communicated by the COLONIAL OFFICE.)

"SIR,

"Sierra Leone, 21st December, 1869.

"Although I have already made a report to your Excellency upon the details and results of my first journey into the interior from this Colony, it will be convenient for me to speak of it again as briefly as possible, since it is difficult to separate the two journeys. In fact, I consider that from January 20th to November 5th, I have been engaged in one and the same expedition. The whole of that period of time, with the exception of a fortnight in June, was passed by me in the interior. Under the government of Sir Charles Macarthy, Major Laing travelled to Falaba, about 200 miles north-east of Sierra Leone. He was not allowed to pass that town, and, after remaining some time there, returned to the Colony. Nothing resulted from that journey, and since then half a century passed, and not a single traveller attempted to open up the country directly interior of this settlement. In my journey to Falaba, commenced in January, 1869, I took a route different from that of Laing. He went from Mahello, I from Port Loko, and my route led me through the country of the Limboos, a people much dreaded by Native travellers, and through whom I had great trouble in passing. On my arrival at Falaba, I found that I was within three days' journey of the Niger; but the King, following the example of his father, would not permit 'his white man' to pass. I was detained at Falaba three months.

"But though my journey had failed in a geographical sense, I saw that it could be turned to account for the benefit of the Colony. My journey through the Fimmanee country had proved to me that the stipend-system was an admirable instrument for the governing of Africa outside the British jurisdiction, and I was convinced that it might be advantageously extended. Accordingly I brought down with me Deputies from the Kings of Falaba and Limbo. The Falaba envoys, delighted with the presents which they received from your Excellency, and even more delighted with the honours which had

been paid them, assured me (and yourself as well), that I should be allowed to pass Falaba, should I visit it, again.

"Although I was not in strong health, and the rainy season had commenced, I at once determined to go back with them. The gratitude of the African is very evanescent. I believed that the King would allow me to pass Falaba, if I returned with his messenger; but that if I waited till the dry season, the presents would be spent, half forgotten, and that fresh difficulties would arise. The Falaba messengers afterwards congratulated me on my prudence in that step, which was based on my knowledge of the private character of the King. He received the presents (which he had not expected) with great gladness, also the account of the manner in which his envoys had been received by you. He said that now 'the road belonged to you,' and that accordingly I was free to pass, which I did after remaining three days. A journey of 50 miles brought me to the Niger. At this point it is only 100 yards broad. It has been my fortune to see the Upper Niger nearer to its source and nearer to the coast than any other European. Crossing the Niger, I entered the Sangara country. At the first town, Farabana, I ascertained that the source of the river was inaccessible, owing to a war. I determined, therefore, to make an attempt to reach Bouré, and also to ascertain at what point the Niger became navigable for canoes. I succeeded in both these efforts; which of the two journeys would be preferred by geographers—Bouré or the Niger's source—is difficult to say. Each has an interest and value of its own, but there can be no doubt which of the two journeys would be the more serviceable to this Colony. A journey to the Niger's source would be a geographical feat, but it could have no practical result. The river, above the point where I struck it, would certainly be useless for purposes of navigation, and passes through the country of the Korankos, mere savages, who have nothing to sell but slaves, and with whom we can have no communication. But in travelling through the Sangara country to Bouré, in going north-east from Farabana, instead of south, I passed through the country of that enterprising people, who bring down hides and gold to this Colony.

"I visited our customers; in fact, Sangara is the land of hides, Bouré, of gold. At the end of the Sangara country I met the Niger again. It had received tributaries, and was now a noble river, offering no obstacle to navigation between the point where I struck it the second time, and those rapids which check the navigation of the Lower Niger. I crossed the Niger again to this side, and travelled through a wilderness about 45 miles broad to Bouré—the gold country celebrated throughout Central Africa—never before visited by a white man.

"Your Excellency will understand with what regret I turned my back on the Niger to return. But I had been able to carry only 50*l.* worth of goods; cloth and tobacco is the money of the country, and everything has to be carried on men's heads. I had been compelled to 'pay the road' from the beginning to the end of my journey, according to the custom of the country, for black travellers have to pay as well as white. It is, indeed, remarkable that I was able to go so far with such small means. It was only by exercising the most rigid economy that I was able to do so.

"However, at Bouré, I found that I had only enough to pay the expenses of my return journey, and arrived at Sierra Leone with very little cloth in my possession. I consider it needless to trouble you with details of my journey, which will be presented to the public in due course. I had to suffer the usual hardships and anxieties (harder still) to which African travellers are always exposed. Want of animal food, difficulties of passing certain towns, some of my men deserting, others falling sick, and so on. But I shall at once proceed to the possible results of my journey.

1. "It is now in your Excellency's power to annex (to all intents and purposes) the country lying between Port Loko and the Niger at Farabana. The payment of 200*l.* a year to various chieftains on the road will make you their chief. I need not dwell on the advantages of the stipend-system; nobody knows better than yourself that Africa is to be conquered by money, not by arms. I formerly recommended that the Kings of Falaba and Limba above should be stipended, and that they should sub-stipend the smaller chiefs. But in my second journey I have learnt that they cannot be trusted to do this. I am now convinced that every chief who has the power to 'cut the road,' or plunder travellers, must have a stipend from Sierra Leone itself. Under this new plan the stipends of the great chiefs would, of course, be reduced. The object of thus possessing the road to the Niger is, of course, to attract the hide and gold strangers who live beyond the Niger. We have a rival in the Melacuric; but by stipending the King of Falaba, he would use his great power and influence to make the Sangaras take what will doubtless be called the Governor's road, and by stipending the troublesome Limbas, the Sangaras would no longer be subjected to dangers of robbery, and even murder in that country. I consider, therefore, as the first result of my journey, that it will enable your Excellency to take steps which will produce within the next few years a very great increase of the hide and gold imports to this Colony.

"2. In Africa precedent is all powerful, where a white man has once been he can always be followed by a white man, unless a decidedly bad impression has been made. There is now no difficulty in reaching a navigable point on the Niger. An expedition, furnished with boats properly constructed, could, after a short and easy land journey (it was not easy to me, but it will be to my successors), go by water to a point on the Niger close to that which is reached by the annual expedition from the Bight of Benin. Nature offers no obstacles to such a voyage, but some obstacles would doubtless be offered by the natives.

"3. The road to the hide and gold country is now open and safe. Sierra Leone traders might carry goods to Sangara and Bouré with advantage. This was so apparent to my men that several of them determined to make the speculation in the next dry season.

Briefly to sum up what I have done,—

"1. I have ascertained who are the chiefs whom it would be advisable to stipend, and brought down (in your absence) deputies from almost all of them. Details relating to the stipendees will be communicated by me whenever your Excellency may direct.

"2. I have discovered the Niger at the distance of only 250 miles from Sierra Leone.

"3. I have ascertained the point where the Niger becomes navigable for large canoes, about 350 miles from Sierra Leone.

"4. I passed through the whole extent of the Sangara country, the people of which come in vast numbers to this Colony. I explained to the chiefs of every town that I passed, the exertions which you were making to clear the road, and stimulated them to increased traffic.

"5. Finally, I reached Bouré, a journey of 450 miles.

"6. I have to report that, in the countries visited by me, cotton is largely cultivated for home use.

"7. I believe that any messenger sent by your Excellency would be able to go not only as far as I have been, without hindrance, but much further. I brought down an envoy from Bouré, and two also from two powerful chiefs resident on the Niger, near Bouré. They received presents from the Administrator-in-Chief, and would, I am sure, assist any government messenger.

"I trust, Sir, that the efforts which I have made in the service of this

Colony will obtain the approval of your Excellency. I can, at least, assure you that I have from first to last striven conscientiously to do my best.

“When you trusted me with the powers of a representative of your Government, I determined that you should never have occasion to regret that you had made that experiment; and I hope that hereafter my journey may be reckoned among the many benefits which your administration has conferred on Sierra Leone.

“I have, &c.,

(Signed)

“W. WINWOOD READE.

“*Sir A. Kennedy, C.B.*”

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